

The Mission Field

December Report of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church

GENERAL FUND

California Church, per M. Shively,	\$ 9 25
King's Children, Lanark, Ill.,	4 00
L. S., Sterling, Ill.,	1 00
S. K., Dayton, Ohio,	3 00
M. O. H., Columbus, Ohio,	35
Mrs. J. H., Johnstown, Pa.,	5 00
California Church, per M. Shively,	5 00
J. G. C., Phila., Pa.,	5 00
Christmas offering, Allentown, church,	5 40
H. C. W., Lunsdale, Pa.,	1 00
W., and J. M., Nevada, Mo.,	2 00
S. S., Goblesville, Ind.,	2 00
Mrs. G. L., Laporte, Ind.,	1 00
Mrs. M. Mc. D., Fairview, Ind.,	1 00
S. S. C. E., H. Bemenderfer and Miller	
pledge, Dunlaps, Ind.,	5 00
Offering, Fairview Convention,	9 87

\$ 59 98

WASHINGTON FUND

National S. S. C. E.,	\$ 40 00
Pennsylvania S. S. C. E.,	5 00
Johnstown Brethren Church	10 00
Pittsburgh " "	4 55
Washington " "	14 04
S. B., Altoona,	1 00

\$ 74 59

Total,	134 46
Receipts previously reported,	541 98

Total, \$ 676 44

EXPENDITURES

Order No. 45. W. M. Lyon,	\$ 40 00
Amount sent direct to W. M. Lyon,	34 59
Order No. 46, R. J. McClure rent,	20 00
" " 47, J. O. Talley, Chicago,	12 00

Total, \$106 59

Amount of expenditures previously reported, \$547 34

\$653 93

Receipts to Jan., 1, 1899,	\$676 44
Expenditures Jan. 1, 1899,	653 93

Balance in hand, \$22 51

Owing to the secretary's absence from home this report is several weeks late. The January report promises to be a good one.

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT AND HOW TO EXERCISE IT—No. 2

MARTIN SHIVELY

"*The Field is the World.*"—These words, taken from Jesus' explanation of the parable of the sower, clearly define the largeness of his purpose. All Israel had need of the life-giving power of his teachings. Humanly speaking, he descended from the stock, and, by virtue of this fact, he might have contented himself in ministering to this people alone; but beyond the narrow confines of their country, his keen and sympathetic eye saw a whole race equally in need of his message. His heart went out in love to all. True, his people were not neglected; they were to hear first, and, that they might do so, he and the disciples went into all their cities and villages, teaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. But when this had been done, and the further work was given into the hands of his church, the command was, "Go into all the world" and sow the precious seed. As said heretofore, we are successors to the Apostolic church, and

claim to observe its practices in all things, in so far as its observances are known. To be indeed the successors to the Apostolic church, we must do our utmost to occupy the field, *which is the world*. I know we are disposed to think there is ample ground and opportunity to exercise the missionary spirit at home, in the immediate localities in which we live. We are confirmed in this view by the fact that there are "heathens" not far away. This may be all true, and I have no doubt that it is, for even in this land, so blessed with religious advantages, there are many who seem to have little regard either for God or man. We must not forget, however, that when Jesus gave this weighty command, there were comparatively few converts to Christianity in all of Israel, so that the apostles might have had equally good ground upon which to base an excuse for not going "into all the world." They could with perfect truth have said, "Lord, Israel is still unsaved; had we not better give our time to the saving of our brethren?" But they offered no objection and thus manifested their confidence in his wisdom. Israel had already heard—that is, most of its people had—and now he would have them leave the word that its leavening properties may be developed, while they introduce it elsewhere. As to there being danger of neglecting the home field, it really exists only when we become indifferent to the claims of the larger field, which is the whole world. In proportion as we become awake to the demands of this great parish, we shall have the deeper interest in the needs of the field nearest us. The opposite is, of course, equally true. Plainly and practically stated, then, when we are most concerned about the cause of foreign missions, our local missions shall be cared for all the better. Yes, I am a believer in this wider field for missionary activity. How could I be other wise? My Savior's example and his express command are before me, and I must accept these as a divine call to this faith and the activities which must grow out of it. "The field is the world." It is quite large, enough so that there will be ample room for all, with no danger of over crowding. Not only is there room, but there is a crying need. Porto Rico had one Protestant church when it came into the possession of our country; and even it was closed when found. The island now belongs to us, and is open for missionary workers. The same is true of the Philippines, Cuba, and all other territory over which our government exercises control. This part of the "world" is not only open, but its inhabitants are saying, "Come over and help us." Recent reports from the Philippines tell us that their people are anxious to have Protestants come to teach their children. They have been priest ridden and defrauded of their right to truth, and now want the pure, unencumbered light of the gospel and the civilization it begets. Here is a real Macedonian cry. Who will respond to it?

"Shall we, to men benighted,
The lamp of life deny?"

Brethren, this is a serious question, and we cannot evade answering it. The field, however, is much larger than the territory just mentioned. In Africa, China, India, Korea, and many other countries, there is open ground, which is ours to occupy if we will. Upon this ground are millions of our fellowmen who are in spiritual darkness, and will remain so, for a long time, many of them dying without the comfort and consolation of hope, unless we carry to them "the lamp of life." I am not forgetting the need of our home field, and I would not have any retreat from lines of work already undertaken. On the contrary, I would that our efforts might be much more extended, so that we should reach not only Washington, Chicago and Dayton, but into all the cities and even villages of our land. The "gospel-alone" is needed everywhere, and I have no doubt that its preaching would be attended with much success. By the additional strength which such an effort would give, both by numerical growth and spiritual, we could reach out farther from year to year, and thus do a good part toward the world's reclamation. Some other denominations have grown to greatness; but it is noticeable that those which exert the greater influence in human affairs, have been, and still remain, intensely missionary. We have more of truth to offer than any of them, for we stand upon the undivided word of God; this is the central idea of the Brethren church; therefore we love the church and we love its creed. Let us love with even more fervency our Savior, and those for whom he died. And let our love find expression in our hearty obedience to him, and in giving a helping hand to those who are groping in spiritual darkness. Let us forget no duty at home, but let us also remember that the field into which we are called to labor and live as servants of the Lord is *the whole wide world*.

Mission Notes

I have just returned from attending five Bible and Missionary Conventions. As one has already been reported, and the others no doubt will be by local correspondents I will not enter into details. The attendances at Fairview, Milledgeville, Lanark and Hudson were not large, but at Enon there were a goodly number present. Sickness and cold weather hindered many from attending. The interest in all the conventions was good and apparently much enjoyed by all present. The officials of Missionary Boards are generally regarded as "bores" intent upon collecting money from unwilling audiences, it is just possible that some absented themselves from our conventions on this account, if so, they missed it, as money was not the object in holding them, and if it had been there would have been a sad disappointment, as the immediate receipts of all the conventions would not have paid the personal expenses of your secretary.

The object of these conventions is to study the word of God, and the mission of the church, preparatory to the Lord's coming.